

Mr. Pedigo introduced a bill for the relief of Josiah Jordan, and a bill for the relief of Chas. Baxter—each read first and second times, and referred to the committee on Private Land Claims, No. 2.

On motion of Mr. Millican, the Senate adjourned till 10 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, JAN'Y 2d, 1856.

The Senate was called to order, by the President pursuant to adjournment—prayer by the chaplain—roll called—quorum present. The Journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

Mr. Pedigo presented the memorial of Thomas J. Chambers read, and referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. Potter chairman of the committee on the Judiciary, made the following reports:

The Judiciary committee have considered a bill fixing the compensation for saving cotton found in any of the waters of this State, or on the coast thereof in the Gulf of Mexico, and direct me to return the same with amendments, recommending the adoption of the amendments and the passage of the bill.

#### AMENDMENTS.

1st. In the 3d Section strike out all after the word "paid," in the 3d line from the end of the section, and insert "over to the county Treasurer of the county in which the sale took place, and such county Treasurer shall immediately pay the same over to the Treasurers of the State, who shall pay the same over to the person entitled thereto, on proof being made of the right of the claimant in the manner provided for the recovery of money paid into the Treasury of the State, by executors or administrators of estates, when no heirs, devisees or legatees of the estate appear to claim the funds of the estate on the final settlement thereof."

2d. Insert the following as Sec. 4th, viz:

"Sec. 4th. In case there shall be no wreck-master, in the county in which the cotton is deposited, then it shall be the duty of the county clerk of the court, to perform all the duties required of wreck-masters by this act, and such clerk shall be entitled to receive the same compensation for his services, as is allowed to wreck-masters under this act."

3d. Make Sec. 4th, Sec. 5th; and Sec. 5th, Sec. 6th.

4th. Strike out the last section.

Mr. Potter chairman of the same committee, to which was referred a bill to incorporate the town of Indianola, and a bill to provide the mode of levy and sale under execution of the stock

of incorporated companies, reported the same back, recommending their passage.

Mr. Armstrong from the committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred a bill for the relief of the Young men of Lamar and Red River counties, reported a substitute therefor, recommending its adoption and passage.

Mr. Taylor of Cass, chairman of the committee on public debt, made the following report:

The committee on public debt to which was referred the petition of Samuel Swartwout, have considered the same. In investigating the claim of the petitioner, the committee have ascertained that there are other like cases, all alike meritorious. Those cases differ from any others in connection with our financial history. Those parties advanced their money to Texas without any security or hope of reward during her struggle for independence, when she most needed aid. It was the policy of the Government to issue Bonds or evidence of debt with the interest at 10 per cent per annum for advances; but in those cases the advances were made voluntarily by the parties for promoting the great cause of Texas liberty, with but little if any hope of ever being remunerated for the same. By previous legislation, we have authorized the payment of the principal, and now when Texas is fully able to reward those who came to her assistance in the dark hour of her troubles, we think it nothing but right to return the interest as well as principal. I am therefore instructed by a majority of the committee to report the accompanying bill recommending its passage.

A bill for the relief of Sam'l Swartwout and others; read first time.

Mr. Pirkey from the committee on private land claims No. 2, made the following reports:

The committee on private land claims No. 2, to which was referred the application of Henry Leaborn, beg leave to report: That from the evidence before us, the applicant emigrated to Texas a single man, subsequent to the 1st day of October 1837 and received a head-right for 320 acres of land; That he married in the State on the 12th day of September 1841. The committee are of opinion that there is no law authorizing an augmentation under this state of facts or to this class of emigrants. They are informed however, by the Commissioner of the General Land Office that many of the county Boards issued augmentations under similar circumstances. They therefore submit the facts unrecommended for the action of the Senate.

The committee on private land claims No. 2, to which was referred the application of Thomas Sternesnorth, find that the

applicant emigrated to Texas, a single man prior to the 1st day of October 1837, and received a head-right for 640 acres; that he married on the 18th day of March 1840. The committee believe there is no law authorizing an augmentation under this state of facts. They therefore return the same to the Senate, without prejudice for its action, and ask to be relieved from the further consideration of the matter.

Mr Whitaker chairman of the committee on private land claims No. 2, made the following reports:

The committee on private land claims No. 2, have considered the petition of Jas. Brent Clark, praying for a head-right claim to land of one league and labor of land; from the evidence, the committee have concluded that said Clark abandoned the country in 1836, and become a citizen in a foreign country--thus forfeiting any claim on the late Republic of Texas.

The committee on private land claims No. 2, have examined the petition of Almanson Huston and John G. Love, assigns of J. L. Lambright, and find said claim has been adjudicated in the courts adversely to the petitioners. The committee are of opinion that where the courts have been open to the redress of grievances and parties have availed themselves of the remedies thus offered to establish their claim, and failed to do it, that it is inexpedient on the part of the Legislature to grant relief, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration thereof.

Mr Taylor of Fannin, chairman of the committee on private land claims No. 1, made the following reports:

The committee on private land claims No. 1, to which was referred the petition of Samuel McKneely, beg leave to report that from the testimony said McKneely, joined the Texian army as a volunteer in December 1835; that he was taken a prisoner in Feb'y 1836, and confined at Matamoras till about the 9th day of December of the same year, when he made his escape and again joined the army in Jan'y 1837, and was honorably discharged on the 10th of the same month. The committee are not satisfied that he is entitled to a head right, but believe him to be entitled to a land warrant for 1280 acres of land. They therefore report the accompanying bill for his relief without prejudice to his right for a head-right.

A bill for the relief of Samuel McKneely—read first time.

The committee on private land claims No. 1, have considered a bill for the relief of S. A. Miller, and find that said Miller is the legal owner of 345 acres of land patented to David Spears, and that said Spears is dead and has no known heirs, to join said Miller in applying for cancellation of said patent. The evidence

further shows that all of the land included in said patent is covered by older locations. A majority of the committee therefore instruct me to report the bill back recommending its passage.

On motion of Mr Taylor of Houston, the rule requiring a report to lie on the table for one day, was suspended, the bill taken up and read.

On motion of Mr Taylor, the bill was amended by adding, Sec. 2. The bill was then ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr Taylor the rule was further suspended; bill read 3d time and passed.

Mr Fruit from the committee on private land claims No. 2, to which was referred the petition of Alexander McLane, reported a bill for his relief, recommending its passage.

A bill for the relief of Alexander McLane; read first time.

Mr McCulloch presented the petition of Wm. Charlton, George Morgan, and of W. D. Morgan administrator of Thomas J. Morgan; referred to the committee on private land claims N. 2.

Mr Pedigo introduced "a bill to provide additional compensation for clerks of the District Courts"—read first and second times, and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr Flanagan introduced "a bill for the relief of Thomas J. Heath," and "a bill for the relief of Jonas Gilbert"—read first and second times, and referred to the committee on Private Land Claims, No. 2.

Mr Armstrong introduced "a bill for the relief of the heirs of Jeffrey Mumford"—read first and second times, and referred to the committee on Private Land Claims, No. 2.

Mr Palmer introduced "a bill requiring the Comptroller to issue his warrant on the Treasurer, for certain lost certificates"—read first and second times, and referred to the committee on Public Debt. And "a bill authorizing Albert G. Hunt to construct a road and bridge across the Yegua river, at or near Blake's crossing"—read first and second times, and referred to the committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.

On motion of Mr Taylor of Cass, "a bill to amend the first, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fifteenth sections of "an act to incorporate Chappel Hill College," approved February 7th, 1850, was taken up, read and ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr Taylor of Cass, the rule was suspended, bill read third time, and passed unanimously.

On motion of Mr Taylor of Cass, "a bill to incorporate Margaret Houston Female College" was taken up, read and ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr White, the rule was suspended, bill read 3rd time and passed by the following vote :

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Armstrong, Burroughs, Caldwell, Flanagan, Guinn, McCulloch, Martin, Maverick, Millican, Palmer, Pedigo, Pirkey, Potter, Russell, Taylor of Cass, Taylor of Fannin, Taylor of Houston, Truit, Weatherford, Whitaker and White—23.

NAYS—None.

Mr Guinn, chairman of the committee on engrossed bills, reported as correctly engrossed,

A bill to incorporate the Houston Lyceum.

A bill requiring the return of unconditional certificates to the General land office. And

A bill for the relief of Pre-emptors.

A message was received from the House, informing the Senate that the House had passed a bill supplementary to an act to change the sixth and ninth Judicial Districts, and to define the time of holding the courts therein.

On motion of Mr Taylor of Cass, the bill was taken up and read first time.

On motion of Mr Taylor of Cass, the rule was suspended, bill read second time and passed to a third reading.

On motion of Mr Flanagan, the rule was further suspended, bill read third time and passed.

On motion of Mr Millican, a bill to change the time of holding the courts in the thirteenth Judicial District, together with the report of the committee on the Judiciary thereon, offering a substitute for the same, was taken up, read and substitute adopted—and bill ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr Palmer, the rule was suspended, bill read third time and passed.

On motion of Mr Allen, a bill to confirm the titles of certain pre-emption settlers within the limits of Peter's Colony, together with the report of the committee on public lands, offering an amendment thereto, was taken up, read and amendment adopted.

Mr Taylor of Fannin, offered the following amendment:—Strike out "genuine" before "claim" in 1st sec. and insert at the end of said section, "under any genuine headright or other land certificate."

On motion of Mr Allen, the bill and amendments were referred to a select committee of three.

Messrs. Allen, Taylor of Fannin, and Pirkey, were appointed said committee.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY.

A bill explanatory of the 14th section of "an act to provide for the construction of the Mississippi and Pacific Rail Road Company"—approved Dec. 21st 1853; read.

Mr Taylor of Fannin, offered the following amendment:—Strike out "640" and insert "160" wherever it occurs in the bill.

On motion of Mr Palmer, the bill and amendments were laid on the table by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Caldwell, Flanagan, Guinn, McCulloch, Maverick, Millican, Palmer, Pirkey, Taylor of Fannin, Whitaker and White—12.

NAYS—Messrs. Armstrong, Burroughs, Guinn, Martin, Pedigo, Potter, Taylor of Cass, Taylor of Houston, Truit and Weatherford—10.

A bill to provide for a geological examination of the State of Texas; read third time.

Mr Potter moved a call of the Senate; carried.

On motion of Mr White, the Senate adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning, by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Armstrong, Caldwell, Grimes, Millican, Pedigo, Pirkey, Russell, Taylor of Cass, Taylor of Fannin, Taylor of Houston, Whitaker, and White—13.

NAYS—Messrs. Burroughs, Flanagan, Guinn, McCulloch, Martin, Maverick, Palmer, Potter, Truit, and Weatherford—10.

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THURSDAY, January 3d, 1856.

The Senate was called to order by the President pursuant to adjournment—roll called—quorum present.

The journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

Mr Weatherford presented the petition of the citizens of Johnson county, asking for a transfer of all judicial business to Johnson district court; referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

On motion of Mr Doane, Messrs. Hord and Taylor of Fannin, were added to the select committee to investigate land titles West of the Nueces.

Mr Taylor of Cass, chairman of the committee on the public debt, made the following report:

The committee on public debt, to which was referred the memorial of Memucan Hunt, for unsettled claims against the Government of Texas, for services and advances in the years 1836, 1837, and 1838, have considered the same, and in investigating the evidences upon which the unsettled claims are based, the